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Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04
CEA-01 AGRE-00 /081 W
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R 151336Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1589
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY RONE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL ZURICH
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1001

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, ECNN, EEWT, CEMA, RO
SUBJ: ROMANIAN HARD CURRENCY TRADE WITH CEMA COUNTRIES
REF: (A) STATE 007498, (B) BUCHAREST 0751

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH COUNSELOR GRIGORE BIRGAOANA AND SPECIALIST
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AURELIA RESIGA OF STATE PLANNING COUNCIL'S MIXED COMMISSION
FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION (JUST
CEMA AFFAIRS) TO DISCUSS VARIOUS QUESTIONS RELATING TO CEMA
(SEPTEL FOLLOWS), INCLUDING QUESTION OF INTRA-CEMA HARD CURRENCY
TRADE. CONCERNING THE LATTER, BIRGAOANU SAID THAT INTRA-CEMA
HARD CURRENCY TRADE SOMETIMES INVOLVES AN ACTUAL TRANSFER OF
FOREIGN EXCHANGE IN PAYMENT FOR HARD GOODS AT TIME OF TRANSACTION.

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IN OTHER CASES, IT IS BARTER OF HARD GOODS; THIS DONE AT PROTOCAL
PRICES FOR ITEMS EXCHANGED AT ABOVE PROTOCAL LEVELS, AND AT CURRENTLY
PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICES FOR NON-PROTOCAL GOODS.

2. ON QUESTION OF EXAMPLES OF ROMANIAN INTRA-CEMA HARD CURRENCY
TRADE, BIRGAOANU OFFERED CASE OF ROMANIAN CORN EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLOV-
KIA
AND GDR. HE ADDED THAT ROMANIAN HARD GOODS EXPORTS TO CEMA COUNTRIES
NOT LIMITED TO AGRICULTURAL GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AND GAVE EXAMPLE
OF RAILROAD BOGEY EXPORTS. IN BOTH INSTANCES, NO INFORMATION GIVEN
AS TO HOW ROMANIA PAID FOR THESE EXPORTS, I.E. WHETHER IN HARD
CURRENCY OR BARTHER OF OTHER HARD GOODS.

3. COMMENT: SURPRISINGLY, BIRGAOANU AND RESIGA MORE FORTHCOMING
IN RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT THAN WERE MFT OFFICIALS
WHO HAVE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTRA-CEMA TRADE. WE WILL CONTINUE

ATTEMPT OBTAIN FURTHER INFO ON QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 9 REFTEL A
DURING COURSE OUR REGULAR CONTACTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOR OFFICIALS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Reason:
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